



***NOVEMBER 2020***

**LOCAL 31  
NEWSLINE**

**COUNTDOWN TO**



**NOVEMBER  
ELECTIONS**



# President's Article

## VOTING ON NOVEMBER

3<sup>RD</sup>

I would like to say thank you to the CAP Committee and all of our members who helped with the "Get Out the Vote, this membership participated in. Regional Director Ron D. McInroy provide resources that were very helpful for this local and community. As well as the hard work of this membership. By the time you get this article you will be close to voting or have voted. If you have not voted, please do so. I am only going to ask you to vote for every representative that walked that picket line when we were on strike, who gave us food to eat, who helped us with our unemployment who have voted to help union. If you do not know who they are ask someone at the hall to give you a list. We look out for those who look out for us. Remember what the union fights for and wins for you and your family at the bargaining table can be taken away in the legislative halls of Washington and state capitols.

### Walter Reuther:

Did you know Walter Reuther became an influential figure on the left wing, liberal wing of the democratic party? He advocated for civil rights, great health care provision. During the 1960, he frequently met with then President Lyndon Johnson to discuss upcoming legislation.

### The Union Cause:

Each month I am going to write something that illustrates the history of labor union in America. With new members coming into this local every week let us not just use our monthly paper to educate our members, let us actively educate each other. New and old labor unions in America didn't just pop up out of nowhere they had to be fought for with blood, sweat, and tears to end child labor and slavery, to gain workplace respect and a just society. I am hoping my articles will convince you that some of the challenge's workers faced back

then working people face and fight for today. Let us start with indentured servants. In 1600 America there were 3 main sources of labor in America.

1. Indentured Servants, Prisoners, and Slaves

To be indentured meant that you agreed to repay the cost of your passage to America by working without pay for years under the control of your master employer. The demand for workers in America in 1600 was so great that merchants and agents went all over Europe making promises of good fortune to persuade people to come to America under indentured contracts. Those false promises and the desire to escape poverty, led thousands to enter the indentured contracts of harsh, exhausting labor. A meager diet, movement restricted to workplace only, and your contract time would be extended for even the pettiest of claimed offenses. Protests this inhumane system of hiring grew, but it would be decades before indentured workers would disappear as a way of life for many American workers.

## CORONAVIRUS SCAMES AND HOAXES TARGETING THE ELDERLY

Vulnerable seniors are being prayed on by scammers using a broad range of coronavirus cons to harm them financially and emotionally. Below are a few scams targeting older adults:

1. Home Test Kits: Scammers are calling older adults offering coronavirus kits to collect credit card or banking information. In some cases, they pretend to be officials from the US center of Medicare and Medicaid services. Asking you to verify your Medicaid ID or social security number or even your home address.
2. Several Scams are offering low cost health and life insurance with Covid-19 test kits or other products as free gifts.

1. Stimulus- Related Scams: The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) are aware of scams related to the stimulus payments and loans because of the coronavirus. Scammers are asking consumers to provide bank account information so funds can be released, or loan application can be approved.
2. Charity Scams: Scammers pray on the good nature of many older adults to collect money for bogus Covid-19 relief charities.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

1. Do not answer calls or text messages that come from unknown suspicious numbers.
2. Do not share personal or financial information. Phone, email, or text.
3. Verify charities by calling or checking their website before giving money.

## BUY UNION MADE PRODUCTS FOR A GREAT AMERICA

Did you know you can receive union made shopping lists on your phone?

TEXT: Airline to "22555"

Appliance  
Beer  
Cars  
Candy  
Hotel  
Pet's  
Toy's

(message & data rates may apply)

These are all union friendly products!!

**CONT. ON  
PAGE 5**

# RETIREE BENEFITS

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

## New Retirees

As you enter a new chapter in your life. We would like to reassure you; we are here for you. The Trust has created a booklet with intent of providing you a foundation to better understand your medical benefits and how to get the most out of them. These days, it is important to be informed about your health care. It is crucial that you understand the choices you need to make for you and your family. Please do not hesitate to reach out for help. You can contact the Trust or Benefit office for assistance.

## Audits

Periodically, the Trust will request that you validate the eligibility of dependents covered under your health plan. In that event, you may be required to provide documentation such as birth certificates, death certificates, tax return copies and/or marriage certificates.

Make sure you respond to all requests before the deadline. Your dependents could lose coverage.

## 2021 HEALTH CARE BENEFIT HIGHLIGHT

- **No Change in benefits**
- **No change in copays, deductibles, co-insurance and out of pocket maximum**
- **No increase to your monthly contribution**
- **No change in prescription drug co-pays or dental, vision and hearing aid benefits**

## Benefit Enhancements



### Partial Hospitalization for Behavioral Health

Effective January 1, 2021, Trust health plans will cover mental health or substance abuse services for up to 35 visits, lasting up to eight (8) hours, in a Partial Hospitalization Treatment Facility. Partial hospitalization for mental health or substance abuse will no longer count against the maximum number of inpatient hospital coverage or outpatient mental health visits.



### Telehealth Coverage

All Trust health plans will continue to cover telehealth options for office visits, behavioral health, and other types of specialty services even after the pandemic emergency ends. This coverage option is a new way to make health care more convenient and accessible, allowing you to consult a doctor via videoconference or telephonically. Some services may not be considered appropriate for telehealth long-term. Call the number on the back of your medical ID card for information on telehealth visit costs and to find out how to set up telehealth services through your health plan.

## Getting Care When You Need It

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everyday life for us all. Health care is more important than ever. Nevertheless, it is challenging when you do not have regular access to routine and preventive health care services in-person. We are pleased our carriers provide alternative options our members can take advantage of to ensure they can continue to receive care even at home. We've seen an incredible increase in the use of mail order for prescriptions and telemedicine services.

## Health Plan Questions?

Your safety and health is our number one priority. With that in mind, the Trust and our carrier partners will not be hosting in-person meetings this fall, as we have in past years. However, we want to make sure you have the opportunity to learn about your plan options and ask questions. To accomplish this, we are providing virtual learning opportunities:

- 2021 Benefit Videos: Visit [uawtrust.org/annualenrollment](http://uawtrust.org/annualenrollment) to watch them now.
- Live Conference Calls: Call **833-656-5001 (toll-free)** to RSVP to one of these calls (starting September 2 through October 8 from 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern Time). Visit [uawtrust.org/annualenrollment](http://uawtrust.org/annualenrollment) for the meeting schedule. During these calls, you can ask representatives questions.

# CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS

## GOOD TROUBLE

By Rev. M.D. "Doc" Bass Special to THE CALL

Somewhere in church on "Bloody Sunday, I did not know swarms of Alabama henchmen were attacking some 600 peaceful protesters to block their 54-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. On March 7, 1965, John Lewis and Hosea Williams had led them in pursuit of "Negro" voting rights in general and justice for Jimmie Lee Jackson's murder. State trooper, James Fowler, shot him twice as he tried to help his mother and grandfather. Fowler and other brutal police forces had terrorized them 18 days earlier in nearby Marion. Governor George Wallace had already ordered his men to "use whatever measures are necessary to prevent a march" County Sheriff Jim Clark and his boys came out on foot and on horseback at the base of the bridge that had been named for Edmund Pettus, a Confederate General, an Alabama Senator and a grand dragon for the Ku Klux Klan. State Trooper Major John Cloud, abruptly rejected Williams' request to "have a word", then halfway into the two minutes he'd given them to disburse, unleashed the fury of weaponized racism and viciously trampled, chased, gassed, and beat the marchers with clubs, whips and rubber tubing wrapped in barbed wire. That "Bloody Sunday" left nearly 60 of the marchers injured, including Lewis, who's skull was cracked by an officer of the law. Televised reports of the horror aired later that evening, ironically bumping the premier showing of "Judgement at Nuremberg" on ABC. The rest is history; Ruthless American history that blends with imagery captured two years earlier in Birmingham, where firehoses and dogs were turned on peaceful demonstrators, and where, six months later, a Klansman's bomb killed 4 little Black girls in the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church. It is a history that now juxtaposes the shame of these ob-

structionist. Images against the hard-fought victories for human rights and the "justice" God compels all nations to let "run down like a river." It is also a history that recalls abolitionist and Unitarian preacher, Theodore Parker, and his 19<sup>th</sup> century sermon reference to the "long arc of the moral universe." Despite his inability to "calculate it's curve, "Parker said he was sure that arc "bends toward justice." Dr. King's remix of the quote for the new popularized that President Obama had the "King version" woven into a rug for the Oval Office. John Lewis did not presume to know how the curvature for the arc of the moral universe was calculated either. He just called us to get in "Good Trouble." Proverbially it plays out as a relay race, where the next generations stand ready to receive the baton and to pick up the stride in a movement of people who were not waiting for the arc to bend toward justice, but fighting to bend it toward justice, themselves. Victory depended on good hand-offs from one generation to the next of tenaciously determined good soldiers with good eyes that stayed fixed on the prize. Those who tried to obstruct their vision, to even kill them, clearly had no skill for killing dreams and dreamers that had been incubating in the African people ever since forced upon these hostile shores. The arrogance of the obstructionist blinded them to the valor of such warriors who sprang up from beatdowns to make upbeat rhythms in a cadence by which valiant soldiers would march together for freedom. Their tormentors could never have guessed that even in death in this caliber of soldier reproduces itself into new ones, born, it seems, into the struggle. Though beset with tares and weeds that aim to strangle and choke out that struggle, John Lewis, like many others sprang up as a good troublemaker that some of the younger generations had never known. His assailants didn't know that by bash-

ing in his skull they had written stories in his blood that a new age could broadcast a thousand different ways, highlighting the fact that their blows were a propellant and not a deterrent for a movement that was built to outlive us all. Even in death, John Lewis would long outlive his assailants and the obstructionists who thought they could crush a movement by crushing a man's skull or "break up" a march by breaking the bones and trying to break the spirits of a people who seemed anointed for struggle. Added to that series of historical ironies, they are all indelible, now, as they permanently inscribe throughout African American chronicles a death defying, obstruction resistant movement, that somehow draws life from both victory and defeat. Threats, beatings, and jail did not stop John Lewis' fight for justice. They apparently pushed him on to make two decades of annual trips across that bridge. Somewhere along the way they also propelled him into 17 terms in the US Congress. Undeterred by Governor Wallace's promise in 1963 of "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow forever, "he had lived to see the rebuttal to Wallace's threat written in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. A week after suffering his Alabama beatdown, he had lived to hear President Johnson say, before a joint session of Congress, "We have already 100 years and more {for human rights} and the time for waiting is gone." In 144 days. He signed the Voting rights Act to "put teeth into the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment. " Half a century later as part of even more historical irony, George Wallace, Theophilus "Bull" Connor, Strom Thurmond and other notorious segregationists had all deceased, obsolete and on the wrong side of history. That proverbial arc of a moral universe was as they slept still being pulled toward justice by a new generation of freedom fighters. America's first Black President was among them joining veteran civil rights activists, John Lewis, and oth-

CONT. ON  
NEXT PAGE

## CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS CONT. FROM PG. 4

John Lewis, and others on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Bloody Sunday”, for another victory march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The push that year to have the name changed to the journey to Freedom Bridge, even to the John Lewis Bridge, was opposed by Lewis, himself, who, in a co-authored op-ed with Congresswoman, “Terri” Sewell, said a name “would compromise the historical integrity of the voting rights movement.”

Five years later, no doubt to honor Congressman Lewis’ death, chief among these ironies was the great-great-granddaughter of Edmund Pettus, Caroline Randal Williams, signing her name to an even bigger petition to have her great-great-granddaddy’s name replaced with Lewis”.

Amid tensions over toppling Confederate monuments, Williams wrote in an op-ed for the New York Times “I have rape-colored skin...if there are those who want to remember the legacy of the Confederacy, if they want monuments... my body is a monument.” As a new-era Black poet Dr. Williams is part of the group that was bringing up the rear, getting into “good trouble” on the way to the “promised land” that Dr. King said he had seen from “the mountaintop.”

### VOTE VOTE VOTE

UAW International Union - Dottie Jones began her career in the labor movement in 1966 when she became a member of Local 630 and served as chief steward. From 1996 to 2003, she was appointed to serve as an administrative assistant in the UAW president’s office, the first African American woman to do so. She developed training programs for minority and female union members at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations, and went on to serve on



Dottie Jones

many boards and commissions dedicated to furthering the interests of women in the workplace. Thank you Dottie, for your continued service!

## Black Lives Matter

### Civil Rights Committee

Bruce Drew – Chair

Latisha Dunnell

Trish Trevino

Milton Henry

April Parker

## President’s Article cont. from page 2

### BUY UNION MADE PRODUCTS FOR A GREAT AMERICA

Did you know you can receive union

made shopping lists on your phone?

TEXT: Airline to “22555”

Appliance

Beer

Cars

Candy

Hotel

Pet’s

Toy’s

(message & data rates may apply)

These are all union friendly products!!

### CODE OF CONDUCT:

When you become an officer or appointed representative in this local and locals throughout this country, you accept the responsibility that comes along with that position. Let us be frank, there is a code of conduct that is expected of you. If you are not an elected officer or an appointed member you may not know the code of conduct, but

those who do become officers and appointed representatives know it. Well, it’s not in the constitution in Article 41, page 115, it’s not in the National Agreement or Local contracts or a booklet the union gives to elected members but you know about it even before you become an officer. From that point on as an officer you know where to find that code it is in your heart for as long as you are an officer. So, when I hear someone say it is their Facebook page, they can put what they want on it. The truth is no they cannot, as they are an officer of the UAW.

### HOW YOUR VOTE MATTERS:

I am only going to say a few words about CAP because most of you have already made up your minds who and what your going to vote on. Remember this. Our union leaders can fight for and win benefits for us at the bargaining table but if you do not vote for the right people in the legislative halls of Washington and Kansas it can be taken right away with the blink of an eye and there

is nothing you can do about it because you voted them in office and now they have another 4 years to fool you again!!

### HAVE YOU STOOD UP?

Let us not forget how we got to where we are today. Let us not forget how it started. We are where we are because someone stood up when it was hard to do, someone stood up for us when it was risky, stood up when it was not popular. Because that someone stood up, a few more stood up and then a few thousand stood up with courage and purpose and then some how they managed to change the work force for working people. That someone was the UAW and union members throughout this country. Have you stood up?

In Solidarity,

Clarence E. Brown, President



# ACTIVE BENEFITS

## ACTIVE BENEFITS

### THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### **SICK LEAVE (DISABILITY PLAN):**

Administered by Sedgwick through GM Benefits and Service Center 1-800-489-4646. The purpose of disability benefits is to provide income for eligible employees who are unable to work due to sickness or injury and who are wholly and continuously disabled. There is an eligibility criterion to be insurable by the plan, a member must be actively at work. Otherwise, coverage is effective upon return to active work. Actively at work is performing the job for which the employee has been hired or being on an approved vacation at time of disability. Member must have obtained 1 or more years of seniority.

#### **WAITING PERIODS**

MUST BE PAID ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE WAITING PERIOD!!

**Sickness:** 7 days

**Out Patient Surgery:** 1 Day benefits begin day after surgery

**Hospitalization:** Benefits begin the date of admission

**Emergency Room Observation:** If in Emergency room over 24 hours and admitted the claim is payable from the day the member entered the emergency room.

**Dental Surgery:** Procedures covered under the GM Dental Plan requires a 7 Day waiting period, unless oral surgery performed by a Doctor of Dental Surgery

**"EXAMPLE" Sickness 7-day WP + 1 day paid = 8 days total for a valid and certified sick leave REFER all QUESTIONS TO BENEFITS ON INDIVIDUAL CASES**

#### **CERTIFICATION**

Acceptable medical professionals that can complete your certification paperwork and authorize you to be disabled:

Psychiatrist  
Ophthalmologist  
Family Doctor  
Internist  
Podiatrist

Chiropractor

#### **UNACCEPTABLE:**

Psychologist  
Optometrist  
Physical Therapist  
Social Worker  
Nurse Practitioner  
Physician Assistant

#### **FMLA**

THIS IS A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, COVER YOURSELF AND FOLLOW THE PROCESS!! BECAUSE YOU'VE APPLIED DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE APPROVED! **ONLY USE HOURS ONCE YOU'RE APPROVED.** Make sure when using this program that you only take what you're approved for according to your frequency. Make sure that you have the eligible hours to still be in the program.

#### **BENEFITS OFFICE:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Shift**

**Bobbie Dunnell**

**Norma Raya**

**2<sup>ND</sup> Shift**

**Shawana Woods**

**Shannon Roehl-Wickingson**

**Alt: Dedire Hawkins**

**913-573-7421**

**913-573-7422**

#### **MENTAL HEALTH:**

Administered by Beacon Health Options

WORK FAMILY EAP

**1<sup>ST</sup> Shift: Carol Thompkins**

**2<sup>ND</sup> Shift: Anthony Walker**

**913-573-7327**



## Holiday Depression and Stress

The holiday season for most people is a fun time of the year filled with parties, celebrations, and social gatherings with family and friends. For many people, it is a time filled with sadness, self-reflection, loneliness, and anxiety.

### 19 tips for coping with holiday stress and depression:

1. Make realistic expectations for the holiday season.
2. Set realistic goals for yourself.
3. Pace yourself. Do not take on more responsibilities than you can handle.
4. Make a list and prioritize the important activities. This can help make holiday tasks more manageable.
5. Be realistic about what you can and cannot do.
6. Do not put all your energy into just one day (i.e., Thanksgiving Day, New Year's Eve). The holiday cheer can be spread from one holiday event to the next.

## ACTIVE BENEFITS CONT. FROM PAGE 12

7. Live and enjoy the present.
8. Look to the future with optimism.
9. Don't set yourself up for disappointment and sadness by comparing today with the good old days of the past.
10. If you are lonely, try volunteering some time to help others.
11. Find holiday activities that are free, such as looking at holiday decorations, going window shopping without buying, and watching the winter weather, whether it's a snowflake or a raindrop.
12. Limit your drinking, since

excessive drinking will only increase your feelings of depression.

13. Try something new. Celebrate the holidays in a new way.
14. Spend time with supportive and caring people.
15. Reach out and make new friends.
16. Make time to contact a long-lost friend or relative and spread some holiday cheer.
17. Make time for yourself!
18. Let others share the responsibilities of holiday tasks.
19. Keep track of your holiday spending. Overspending can lead to depression when the

bills arrive after the holidays are over. Extra bills with little budget to pay them can lead to further stress and depression.

# Chaplaincy Committee

## God's Plan for Your Pain

BY RICK WARREN —  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020



***“If you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.”***

**1 Peter 4:19 (NLT)**

Remember what photography was like before everything went digital? When you took a picture, the first thing you'd get was a negative. Then

you'd develop the negative into a positive by going into a darkroom and shining a light through it onto photographic paper. This turned the negative into a positive, full-color photograph.

That's what God wants to do with the injustices in our lives. We all have them. People have mistreated us. They've passed over us. They've taken advantage of us. God wants to take all the negatives, shine the light of Jesus through them, and turn them into positives—a full-color picture of the life we were made to live.

The Bible says, *“If you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you”* (1 Peter 4:19 NLT). The most important thing you can remember when you've been treated unfairly is that Jesus is on your side. Throughout Scripture, God shows special care for people who are treated unfairly. He is a God of justice. He hears your cry, sees your pain, and knows your hurt. You didn't get what you thought you deserved. But God has a plan for your pain.

When you shine the light of God's

love through your circumstances, he can turn your pain into a beautiful picture. He develops your character through it. He makes you stronger.

Most importantly, he uses your pain. You'll never get an explanation for much of the pain you endure in this life. When you get to heaven, you may understand more about why bad things happened to you. But God does not owe you an explanation for it.

But here's the good news: You don't need an explanation. You just need to know that God loves you. He has a plan for you. God will settle the score with whoever hurt you. God never wastes a hurt. Welcome the light of the Gospel into it and God will use your hurt—the very real injustice that has happened to you—to create a beautiful picture through your life.

*Elder Herb Taylor-  
Chaplaincy Chairman*

**United Automobile-Aerospace  
-Agricultural Implement  
Workers of America**

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Union Hall  
#913.342.7330  
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**The Executive Board and Membership of  
UAW Local 31 would like to extend their deepest sympathies  
to the families and friends of the following members who passed away recently**

**Joseph T. Nick**  
Joined: October 1975  
Retired: January 2007  
Dept: 40  
Passed: August 31, 2020

**Terry L. Mitchell**  
Joined: March 1985  
ACTIVE  
Dept: 17  
Passed: September 24, 2020

**Edward J. Rapstine Sr.**  
Joined: January 1985  
Retired: October 1999  
Dept: 25  
Passed: October 16, 2020

**Dean R. Hochstedler**  
Joined: May 1952  
Retired: August 1983  
Dept: 15  
Passed: September 12, 2020

**Lewis E. Crosby**  
Joined: November 1964  
Retired: April 1999  
Dept: 41  
Passed: September 25, 2020

**Sherry L. Weaver**  
Joined: September 1983  
Retired: January 2004  
Dept: 88  
Passed: October 16, 2020

**Charles E. Jacobs**  
Joined: November 1951  
Retired: August 1980  
Dept: Unknown  
Passed: September 23, 2020

**Clarence B. Caldwell  
(C.B.)**  
Joined: September 1968  
Retired: July 2002  
Dept: 41  
Passed: October 3, 2020